

REMARKS

Below, the applicant's comments are preceded by related remarks of the examiner set forth in small bold font.

1. **The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.**

The title has been amended.

2. **Claims 9 and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claims 9 and 24 both make reference to a "port polling process". The proper antecedent basis for this reference has been deleted in the amendment.**

Claims 9 and 24 have been amended.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27, and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cam et al. (US006671 75881) hereafter Cam.**

**In regards to Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27, and 32,
Cam discloses a packet data transfer method on an interface having a large number of ports (Abstract; claim 1 - intra-packet switching method). Cam shows that a Layer/master device 22 polls the PHY devices 14-20 to determine which have data waiting to be transferred (Col. 1, lines 38-41; claim 1, 9, 24, 32 -- determining which ports contain a data packet available for processing).**

Cam shows that data packets waiting to be transferred from polled PHY devices are fragmented to a maximum block size (cell) of data. This maximum block size may be fixed at start-up or by programming through an external management interface (Col. 3, lines 2-9; claim 1, 9, 24, 32 -- fragmenting available data packet into at least one cell having defined size; claim 1, 9, 24, 26, 32 -fragmentation continues until a user-defined number of cells are generated; claim 2, IO, 27 -monitoring the number of cells produced to determine if user-defined number are generated; claim 18,19 - user interface for allowing user to specify user-defined cells to be generated by packet fragmentation process).

The examiner provides the following additional comments regarding claim

12.

Cam discloses a packet data transfer process that covers all limitations of the parent claim.

Cam does not explicitly show storing a data element concerning the packet being processed, comprising a data packet length remainder

indicative of the packet portion not fragmented and a packet truncation indicator indicative of incomplete fragmentation of the packet, if another port contains an available packet, where the element allows subsequent process of the remainder of the data packet being processed in order to monitor and determine when the packet is fully fragmented.

Bucholz discloses a packet delivery system in which packets are fragmented for transmission (Title; Abstract). Referring to Fig. 6, Bucholz shows that a reassembly header (stored data element) is stored in the fragmented packet indicating its place within the packet, total packet length, total fragments, etc. such that it can be determined when the packet is fully fragmented (Col. 6-7, lines 63-23; claim 4,12) storing data element concerning the packet being processed if another port contains an available packet, where the element allows subsequent process of the remainder of the data packet being processed; claim 13 -data packet length remainder indicative of packet portion not fragmented; claim 13 -packet truncation indicator indicative of incomplete fragmentation of the packet; claim 6,15,16,28 monitoring and determining if the data packet has been fully fragmented).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of Cam by storing a reassembly header for the packet currently being processed, including information regarding how much of the packet has been fragmented and how much remains, so that subsequent processing of the remainder of the packet fragments can be performed, as taught by Bucholz. This would enable the transmission system to recognize when a complete packet has been processed when transmitted in a number of fragments.

The applicant disagrees. Cam alone or in combination with Bucholz does not disclose or suggest "storing at least one data element concerning the first available data packet, wherein the data element enables subsequent fragmenting of a second portion of the first available data packet" as recited in the applicant's amended claim 1.

Cam discloses a packet transfer process that includes a transfer period that ends when the end of a packet is reached or when a maximum transfer length has been reached. (col. 4, lines 4-6). When the maximum transfer length has been reached, Cam pauses the data transfer for the particular port by holding an enable signal (RENB) for the port high. (col. 13, lines 17-18 and col. 16, lines 37-42). As the examiner apparently acknowledges, Cam does not disclose or suggest storing a data element that enables subsequent fragmenting of the remainder of the data packet.

Bucholz discloses a packet acknowledgement system to assure delivery of

all fragments of a fragmented data packet. (abstract). The examiner appears to equate Bucholz's reassembly header 430 to the applicant's "data element concerning the first available data packet." However, the reassembly header 430 header cannot be equivalent to the applicant's "data element" because the reassembly header simply provides information for re-assembling packet fragments. Therefore, unlike the applicant's data element, the reassembly header 430 does not provide information to allow for subsequent fragmenting of a second portion of the data packet.

Claims 9, 21, and 24 all recite "a packet information storage process for storing at least one data element concerning the first data packet, wherein said data element enables subsequent fragmenting of a second portion of the first data packet" and are patentable for at least reasons similar to claim 1.

Claims 29 and 32 recite "storing at least one data element concerning the first available data packet, wherein the data element enables subsequent fragmenting of a second portion of the first available data packet" and are patentable for at least reasons similar to claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18, 19, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 33 are patentable for at least the reasons the claims on which they depend are patentable.

In regards to Claims 3 and 11...
In regards to Claims 4, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 28...
In regards to Claim 7...
In regards to Claim 14...
In regards to Claims 20-22 and 34...
In regards to Claim 23...
In regards to Claim 25...

Claims 3-4, 6-7, 11-16, 20-23, 25, 28, and 34 are patentable for at least the reasons the claims on which they depend are patentable.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or

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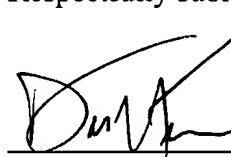
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other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/15/5



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